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ASHBOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashbourne Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 86,188 Acres.

Population (Census 1921) 11,762 ; (Census 1931) 11,661 ; (estimated mid-year 1937 by Registrar General) 11,160.

No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book, 3036.

Rateable Value, £38,532.

The chief occupations in the northern part of the district, which is mostly on the mountain limestone, are dairy farming, limestone quarrying, and digging silica clay and making refractory articles of the same. In the central and southern portions, the land is at a much lower elevation and is on the bunter sandstone and keuper marl beds. The chief occupations are farming, digging and cleaning gravel. There are several milk and cheese factories in the district and also a small tape mill. There is very little unemployment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births.—Live Births	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rates
Legitimate	165	92	73	14·78
Illegitimate	8	5	3	·71
Totals	173	97	76	15·50
Still Births	6	3	3	·53

The 6 still births is equal to a rate of 33·52 per 1,000 births.

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females	Death Rate
	145	73	72	12·99

Natural increase of population (i.e., excess of births over deaths) 28.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—From Puerperal Sepsis ... 0
From other Puerperal causes 0

Infantile Mortality.—Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	4	3	1

Infant Mortality Rates (i.e., deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births) :—

Legitimate only	23·12
Illegitimate only	0
Total	23·12

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES :—

Cancer	11
Measles	0
Whooping Cough	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0

No particular epidemic occurred during the year

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The examination of clinical material takes place, free of charge, at the Derbyshire County Council Laboratory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

There are St. John's Ambulances at Sudbury and Ashbourne, both for non-infectious cases. Infectious cases are removed by the ambulances from the neighbouring infectious disease hospitals at Etwall in the Repton Rural District and Heage in the Belper Rural District.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are three Health Visitors in the district who are also District Nurses and Midwives. There are seven midwives practising in the District, some of whom are registered Nurses.

HOSPITALS.

There is a small pox hospital in the area which has not been used for some years ; other cases of infectious disease are sent to the hospitals of the Etwall Isolation Hospital Committee and the Belper Isolation Hospital Committee. 29 cases of scarlet fever were sent to such hospitals during the past year. Non-infectious disease cases are sent to the voluntary hospitals in the neighbouring towns.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Extensions carried out during the year to sewers and sewage disposal works include the following, viz :

DOVERIDGE. The sewers were extended along the Hall Drive Estate, Doveridge, at the expense of the estate owners.

HARTINGTON. A new sewer has been laid at Hartington to replace existing limestone culverts.

WATER SUPPLY.

HARTINGTON. The scheme for supplying the parishes of Hartington Town and Nether Quarters has been completed, and the water was first turned on for public supply on August 18, 1937. This is a great advantage to the householders and farmers who have been greatly inconvenienced, especially during the drought periods. Bacteriological examinations of the water have been carried out and the results have been good.

BRADLEY, HULLAND AND HULLAND WARD.—The Council have under consideration a Water Scheme to supply the villages in the central part of the District. As part of the scheme two bore holes have been sunk in the bunter sandstone at Sturston, about ⅓ of a mile apart and tested. The average daily quantity pumped over a 14 days test was 77,320 gallons from the first hole and 152,250 gallons from the second hole. In both instances to water is soft and of a very high degree of purity both chemically and bacteriologically.

An application was made to the Minister of Health on 26th August, 1937, for sanction to borrow the sum of £13,200 to carry out the supply to the parishes of Bradley, Hulland and Hulland Ward, and the Council are considering the question of extending the scheme to the parishes of Brassington, Bradbourne, Parwich, Hognaston and Atlow, from the same source.

Extensions of Water Mains.

Doveridge. The water mains were extended along the Hall Drive Estate, Doveridge, to serve the new houses recently erected.

Boylestone. The Derbyshire County Council who are the owners of a number of farms at Boylestone, have constructed a reservoir in the village and laid a pumping main from the bore hole at Sutton-on-the-Hill. This supplies all the County Council's small holdings which in the past have had a doubtful supply.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Derbyshire County Council continue to keep a vigilant watch for serious contamination of all streams which pass through your district. No serious complaints have been received during the year.

For the most part, the various sewage disposal works owned by the Council discharge non-polluting effluents which are examined from time to time by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There has been no material change in the system of closet accommodation during the year. A number of conversions to Water Closets have been carried out in the parish of Doveridge.

4.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council have undertaken the collection of household refuse from the additional villages of Fenny Bentley and Tissington during the year.

Regular collection and disposal of refuse is carried out in the following villages :—Brassington, Part of Clifton, Fenny Bentley, Hartington Town Quarter, Mappleton, Parwich, Tissington.

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5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the Inspectors' visits and notices served during the year, viz. :—

NAME OF INSPECTORS, J. H. WHEELDON AND H. LITCHFIELD

Area of Northern District ... 53,429 Acres. Estimated No. of Houses ... 1748.

Area of Southern District ... 31,460 Acres. Estimated No. of Houses ... 1288.

New Houses erected 1937 (a) By Local Authority 4. (b) By Private Enterprise 16.

	Number of Inspections made by Inspectors		Number of Notices served				No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice	
			Informal		Legal			
	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS								
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (Not for Conversion)	4	4	1	—	1	—	2	—
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	20	16	6	8	—	—	6	8
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Water Closets	4	8	1	4	1	—	2	4
Provision of Additional Water Closets	1	6	1	1	—	1	1	1
Provision of Portable Ashbins ...	50	—	40	—	—	—	40	—
Dirty Closets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE—								
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe ...	8	—	3	—	4	—	7	—
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains	60	—	90	—	4	–	23	—
Drains Obstructed	14	6	4	1	1	1	5	1
OTHER DEFECTS—								
Paving of Courts and Yards ...	8	—	3	—	1	—	4	—
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts	115	30	36	10	2	1	38	10
Sinks	10	12	4	6	13	—	17	6
Insufficient Ventilation	10	6	4	3	2	—	6	3
Windows	10	12	2	6	2	—	4	6
Dampness	40	20	20	8	—	1	20	8
Water in Cellars	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	60	220	4	—	2	—	25	60
Overcrowding	20	26	4	—	1	—	4	4
Foul Condition of Houses ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	8	—	8	—	1	—	20	—
Animals improperly kept	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigsties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urinals	15	6	3	1	—	1	3	1
Nuisances not specified above ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	438	374	163	48	37	5	227	112

	Number on Register		Inspections made		Notices served		Nuisances Abated with or without Notice	
	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.	Nth.	Sth.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	535	313	250	70	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	40	3	30	12	1	—	1	—
Slaughterhouses	6	4	130	120	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	2	—	20	—	2	—	2	—
Common Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	547	320	430	182	3	—	3	—

Signed J. H. WHEELDON (Northern),
H. LITCHFIELD (Southern),
Sanitary Inspectors.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your inspectors' report upon their work under these Acts are as follows :—

No. of premises licensed to store Petroleum at 31st December, 1937	52
No. of premises licensed to store Carbide of Calcium at 31st December, 1937 ...	1
Total Storage capacity for Petroleum Spirit	51,200 gallons
Total Storage capacity for Carbide of Calcium	5 cwt.

Inspections of all the licensed premises have been made from time to time, and no infringement of the licenses found, the regulations being well observed.

6.—SHOPS

The shops in the district have been periodically inspected during the year, and one statutory notice has been served.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT

There has been no action necessary for the abatement of smoke nuisances.

8.—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the area, and only one privately owned swimming pool. This is fed by water from an adjoining brook.

9.—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There have been no cases of infestation with bed bugs reported during the year.

10.—HOUSING—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930, four houses have been demolished, also four new ones have been erected at Doveridge to re-house families living in the unfit houses. Negotiations are being made for land in other parishes on which to build houses to abate over-crowding.

During the year plans for 15 houses were laid before the Council, and 52 houses were actually completed.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS') ACTS, 1926-31.

By arrangement with the County Council, the administration of the Housing (Rural Workers') Acts, 1926-31, has now been taken over by your Council. Up to the present time only two applications have been received for assistance, but it is hoped that through the action of the Council, in advertising and publishing particulars of the Acts that property owners will take advantage more thereof.

The statistical tables which follow set out in detail the work of the Department in Housing during the year.

(1). INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	154
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	340
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	72

(2). REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 66

(3). Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ...

(a) By Owners 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... ...

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... 5

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

(4). Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 30

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 30

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 175

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 14

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 35

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(e) Other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions :

Negotiations are proceeding for land in the various parishes where overcrowding exists, and it is hoped that these families will be re-housed in the near future

11—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Meat and Other Foods—Regular and systematic inspection of all slaughterhouses, butchers' shops and bakehouses are made. Meat found to be unfi for human consumption is in some cases being used for fish food on the trout rearing farms.

(b) Adulterations, etc.—The Acts and Regulations with respect to Foods and Drugs are enforced by the County Council.

(c) Chemical and Bacterioligical Examination of Food—The laboratories at which such work is carried out are at the County Offices, Derby.

12—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year—The incidence of infectious disease was again low during the year, being 44 cases of all kinds.

The total number of each disease notified was as follows :—

	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	35	29
Diphtheria ...	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	0
Pneumonia ...	5	0
Erysipelas ...	2	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	0
	44	29

There were no deaths from infectious disease.

13—PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No occasion to utilise the powers under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, has arisen during the year.

14—TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality—The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases and deaths from tuberculosis during the year, in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	1	3	3	2	—	—

15—DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

The method adopted is either spraying or fumigating with formaldehyde.

32 premises were disinfected for various reasons during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. HOLLICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Ashbourne,
March, 1938.

PLANS OF NEW HOUSES PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS

Parishes	1934	1935	1936	1937
Boylestone	1	—	—	--
Brailsford	—	—	2	—
Doveridge	—	23	54	—
Eaton and Alsop	—	2	—	—
Hartington Town Quarter ...	—	2	2	6
Hartington Nether Quarter ...	1	1	2	—
Hulland Ward	—	—	1	—
Longford	1	—	4	1
Mappleton	1	—	—	—
Marston Montgomery ...	—	—	1	—
Osmaston	—	—	4	—
Parwich	1	3	3	1
Rodsley	—	—	1	—
Shirley	—	—	--	3
Snelston	—	—	1	—
Sudbury	—	2	—	1
Thorpe	—	—	—	1
Yeldersley	1	—	3	2
Totals	6	33	78	15

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspections

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	47	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	71	1	—
Total	118	1	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ...	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—
	—	—	—	—